

**Board of Nursing  
Clinical Nurse Specialist Regulation Committee  
February 17, 2012**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Regulation Committee of the Virginia Board of Nursing was convened at 1:00 P.M. in Board room 3, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia M. Selig, RN, FNP, PhD; Chairperson; Board Member  
Donna Bond, RN, CNS; Virginia Chapter, Clinical Nurse Specialist Association  
Allison Gregory, RN, FNP-BC; Board Member  
Joyce Hahn, PhD, APRN, NEA-BC; Board Member  
Phyllis Whitehead, RN, CNS; Virginia Chapter, Clinical Nurse Specialist Assoc.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jay Douglas, RN, MSM, CSAC; Executive Director, Board of Nursing  
Gloria Mitchell, RN, MSN, MBA; Deputy Executive Director  
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Health Professions

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Linda Thurby Hay, CNS; Virginia Commonwealth University Health System  
Becky Bowers-Lanier; Virginia Chapter, Clinical Nurse Specialist Association  
Ann Hamric; Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing  
Ellen M. Harvey; Virginia Chapter, Clinical Nurse Specialist Association  
Lucy Smith, RN, CNS; Director, Fortis College  
Laura Shanks, Virginia Chapter, Clinical Nurse Specialist Association

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Selig called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions.

**REVIEW OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS:**

Dr. Selig reviewed the background materials that included:

- CNS Core Competencies
- Consensus Model for APRN regulation
- NCSBN Model Act and Rules

**REVIEW OF PETITION FOR RULEMAKING:**

Ms. Yeatts reviewed the petition for rulemaking submitted by the Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists.

**REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Yeatts provided an overview of public comments received and noted most comments were from out of state and urged the Board to ensure conformity with the APRN Consensus Model.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Others that were present offered comments in support of any efforts to ensure conformity with APRN Consensus Model and to reaffirm clinical nurse specialists as APRN's. Comments offered also suggested the current regulations has led

public to not see clinical nurse specialists in an advanced practice role and therefore were underutilized.

Donna Bond, President of the Virginia Chapter of Clinical Nurse Specialist Association, provided the following talking points to address the outcome that the Association was looking for in respect to regulation of clinical nurse specialists.

- We ask the Virginia Board of Nursing for recognition status as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN).
- We do not ask to be considered a Nurse Practitioner.
- In accordance with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's LACE model (licensure, accreditation, certification and education), we request the CNS be an additional licensure entity solely under the regulatory scope of the Board of Nursing. This provides title protection.
- Accreditation refers to the schools of nursing that provide CNS education and meet curricular criteria and standards set by national accrediting organizations [from what I have read Virginia is following this recommendation].
- Certification – We further support for the certification to follow the NCSBN's LACE recommendations of a “national certification examination that measures advanced practice registered nursing, role and population-focused competencies”. Within this recommendation, the certification exam may only be available to qualified graduates of an APRN-CNS program. (This means entry-level exams in which AD or BSN nurses pass, do not qualify as an entry-level exam for an APRN.)
- For the educational component, the CNS's current accept and follow the recommendation by the Virginia Board of Nursing.
- We respectfully request “grandfathering” in nurses who have met the current requirements and are currently licensed as CNS's in the Commonwealth of Virginia; these CNS's must maintain their national certification and other requirements for the position.

#### **DISCUSSION OF CURRENT CNS ROLE AND REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS:**

Following discussion of legislative versus regulatory remedies and response to the petition, the consensus was that the two major issues for the petitioners were titling and licensure. The Committee recognized that in order to accomplish the goals of the CNS Association, legislative changes versus regulatory changes are necessary.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT LANGUAGE:**

The benefit of broad language in the current CNS regulations and the link to the national specialty certification standards were emphasized by Ms. Yeatts as a reminder that regulations are not in conflict with current CNS practice in Virginia.

The Virginia Chapter of the CNS Association indicated they would further examine possible future legislative strategies.

Ms. Douglas recommended that CNS educators be involved in any future efforts.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

No further regulatory action in response to the petition at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:           The Committee adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

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Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director, Board of Nursing